

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Claims 5, 17 and 29 are amended.

1 1. (Cancelled)

1 2. (Cancelled)

1 3. (Cancelled)

1 4. (Cancelled)

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1 5. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented system for protecting a  
2 network, comprising:  
3 a vulnerability detection system (VDS) for gathering information about the  
4 network to determine vulnerabilities of a plurality of hosts on the  
5 network; and  
6 an intrusion detection system (IDS), cooperative with the VDS, for examining  
7 network traffic responsive to the vulnerabilities of a host from the  
8 plurality of hosts as determined by the VDS to detect traffic indicative  
9 of malicious activity.

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1 6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5, wherein the VDS is  
2 adapted to gather information about the network by sending data to the plurality of hosts  
3 and receiving responsive data from the plurality of hosts.

1 7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein the VDS is  
2 adapted to gather information automatically provided by the plurality of hosts.

1 8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 7, further comprising:  
2 a vulnerabilities rules database, in communication with the VDS, for storing  
3 rules describing vulnerabilities of the plurality of hosts,

4 wherein the VDS is adapted to analyze the gathered information with the rules  
5 to determine the vulnerabilities of the plurality of hosts.

1 <sup>5</sup> ~~9.~~ (Previously Presented) The system of claim <sup>4</sup> ~~8~~, wherein the VDS is  
2 adapted to analyze the gathered information with the rules to identify operating systems  
3 on the plurality of hosts and determine the vulnerabilities responsive to the respective  
4 operating systems.

1 <sup>6</sup> ~~10.~~ (Previously Presented) The system of claim <sup>4</sup> ~~8~~, wherein the VDS is  
2 adapted to analyze the gathered information with the rules to identify open ports on the  
3 plurality of hosts and determine the vulnerabilities based on the open ports.

1 <sup>7</sup> ~~11.~~ (Previously Presented) The system of claim <sup>4</sup> ~~8~~, wherein the VDS is  
2 adapted to analyze the gathered information with the rules to identify applications  
3 executing on the plurality of hosts and determine the vulnerabilities based on the  
4 applications.

1 <sup>8</sup> ~~12.~~ (Original) The system of claim <sup>1</sup> ~~5~~, further comprising:  
2 an intrusion rules database, in communication with the IDS, for storing rules  
3 describing malicious activity,  
4 wherein the IDS is adapted to analyze the network traffic with the rules to  
5 detect network traffic indicative of exploitations of the determined  
6 vulnerabilities.

1 <sup>9</sup> ~~13.~~ (Original) The system of claim <sup>1</sup> ~~8~~, wherein the IDS is adapted to detect  
2 traffic indicative of exploitations of only the determined vulnerabilities.

1 <sup>10</sup> ~~14.~~ (Cancelled)

1 <sup>10</sup> ~~15.~~ (Original) The system of claim <sup>1</sup> ~~8~~, wherein the VDS is adapted to update  
2 the determined vulnerabilities, and wherein the IDS is adapted to detect traffic indicative  
3 of malicious activity in response to the update.

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16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the VDS is adapted to update  
the determined vulnerabilities in response to a change in the network.

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17. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for protecting a  
network, comprising:  
gathering information about the network to determine vulnerabilities of a  
plurality of hosts on the network; and  
cooperative with the step of gathering information examining network traffic  
responsive to the determined vulnerabilities of a host from the plurality  
of hosts to detect network traffic indicative of malicious activity.

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18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein gathering  
information comprises sending data to plurality of hosts on the network and receiving  
responsive data from the plurality of hosts.

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19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein gathering  
information comprises receiving data automatically provided by the plurality of hosts on  
the network.

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20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising:  
storing rules to describe vulnerabilities of the plurality of hosts,  
wherein determining vulnerabilities includes analyzing the gathered  
information with the rules.

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21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein determining  
vulnerabilities comprises analyzing the gathered information with the rules to identify  
operating systems on the plurality of hosts.

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22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein determining  
vulnerabilities comprises analyzing the gathered information with the rules to identify  
open ports on the plurality of hosts.

1 <sup>18</sup>  
2 ~~23.~~ (Previously Presented) The method of claim <sup>15</sup>20, wherein determining  
3 vulnerabilities comprises comparing the gathered information against the rules to identify  
applications on the plurality of hosts.

1 <sup>14</sup>  
2 ~~24.~~ (Original) The method of claim <sup>12</sup>17, further comprising:  
3 storing rules describing malicious activity,  
4 wherein detecting network traffic indicative of malicious activity comprises  
5 analyzing the network traffic with the rules to detect traffic indicative  
of exploitations of the determined vulnerabilities.

1 <sup>20</sup>  
2 ~~25.~~ (Original) The method of claim <sup>12</sup>17, wherein examining network traffic  
3 consists of detecting traffic indicative of exploitations of only the determined  
vulnerabilities.

1 <sup>D</sup>  
2 ~~26.~~ (Cancelled)

1 <sup>24</sup>  
2 ~~27.~~ (Previously Presented) The method of claim <sup>12</sup>17, further comprising:  
3 updating the determined vulnerabilities and detecting traffic indicative of  
malicious activity in response to the update.

1 <sup>22</sup>  
2 ~~28.~~ (Original) The method of claim <sup>21</sup>27, wherein the updating is responsive to a  
change in the network.

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29. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, comprising:  
a computer-readable medium having computer program logic embodied  
therein for protecting a network, the computer program logic:  
gathering information about the network to determine vulnerabilities of a  
plurality of hosts on the network; and  
cooperative with the step of gathering information, examining network traffic  
responsive to the determined vulnerabilities of a host from the plurality  
of hosts to detect network traffic indicative of malicious activity.

1 <sup>24</sup>  
2 ~~30.~~ (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim <sup>23</sup>~~29~~,  
3 wherein gathering information comprises sending data to plurality of hosts on the  
network and receiving responsive data from the plurality of hosts.

1 <sup>25</sup>  
2 ~~31.~~ (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim <sup>23</sup>~~29~~,  
3 wherein gathering information comprises receiving data automatically provided by the  
plurality of hosts on the network.

1 <sup>26</sup>  
2 ~~32.~~ (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim <sup>23</sup>~~29~~,  
3 further comprising:  
4 storing rules to describe vulnerabilities of the plurality of hosts,  
5 wherein determining vulnerabilities includes analyzing the gathered  
information with the rules.

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1 <sup>27</sup>  
2 ~~33.~~ (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim <sup>24</sup>~~32~~,  
3 wherein determining vulnerabilities comprises analyzing the gathered information with  
the rules to identify operating systems on the plurality of hosts.

1 <sup>28</sup>  
2 ~~34.~~ (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim <sup>26</sup>~~33~~,  
3 wherein determining vulnerabilities comprises analyzing the gathered information with  
the rules to identify open ports on the plurality of hosts.

1 <sup>29</sup>  
2 ~~35.~~ (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim <sup>26</sup>~~34~~,  
3 wherein determining vulnerabilities comprises comparing the gathered information  
against the rules to identify applications on the plurality of hosts.

1 <sup>30</sup>  
2 ~~36.~~ (Original) The computer program product of claim <sup>23</sup>~~35~~, further comprising:  
3 storing rules describing malicious activity,  
4 wherein detecting network traffic indicative of malicious activity comprises  
5 analyzing the network traffic with the rules to detect traffic indicative  
of exploitations of the determined vulnerabilities.

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1 ~~37~~. (Original) The computer program product of claim ~~29~~, wherein examining  
2 network traffic consists of detecting traffic indicative of exploitations of only the verified  
3 vulnerabilities.

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1 [38. (Cancelled)  
2 ~~37~~. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim ~~29~~, further  
3 comprising:  
4 updating the determined vulnerabilities; and  
detecting traffic indicative of malicious activity in response to the update.

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1 ~~40~~. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim ~~39~~,  
2 wherein the updating is responsive to a change in the network.